

Office of Human Resources
Marjorie H. Adler, Chief Personnel Officer

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR AUTHORIZATION TO SUBMIT AN ADD-ON CERTIFICATION PROGRAM FOR AUTISM ENDORSEMENT TO THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION FOR APPROVAL

COMMITTEE: LEGISLATIVE RELATIONS, PUBLIC RELATIONS AND PERSONNEL SERVICES

Authorization is requested to submit an Add-on Certification Program for Autism Endorsement to the Florida Department of Education (FDOE) for approval. This program will provide the opportunity for teachers currently certified in elementary education or other academic class areas to extend their certification coverages through inservice education courses. It is expected that an Add-on Certification Program for Autism Endorsement will increase the number of teachers able to deliver instruction to students with autism as well as provide the opportunity for teachers to earn certification and gain expertise through inservice education.

The Add-on Certification Program for Autism Endorsement will include required courses addressing specialization requirements specified in State Board Rule 6A-4.01796, Specialization Requirements for Endorsement in Autism-Academic Class. The coursework includes classroom and field experiences, as well as a portfolio requirement. The program curriculum includes the courses listed below:

<u>Course Title</u>	<u>Component No.</u>	<u>MPP</u>
Autism: Nature, Assessment and Diagnosis	5-36-36-9-09	60
Assistive Instructional Technology and Alternative/Augmentative Communication Systems for Students with Autism	5-36-38-9-09	60
Behavioral Management and Positive Behavior Supports for Students with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD)	5-36-37-9-09	60
Field-based Experience with Students With Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD)	5-36-39-9-09	60

Master Plan Points (MPP) have been assigned to each course in accordance with the required procedures of the Miami-Dade/Monroe Teacher Education Center. Pending approval from the FDOE, these courses will be added to the Miami-Dade County Public Schools' Master Plan for Inservice Education, 1999-2004.

Training and Development through the Teacher Education Center, with the cooperation of the Office of Exceptional Student Education and Student/Career Services, will offer the courses. Courses provided through the district's Add-on Certification Program are funded through the Title II Teacher and Principal Quality Program grant. Consequently, no additional local funding is required for program implementation.

RECOMMENDED: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, authorize the Superintendent to submit an Add-on Certification Program for Autism Endorsement for approval by the Florida Department of Education and that courses included in the Add-on Certification Program for Autism Endorsement be included as part of the district's Master Plan for Inservice Education, 1999-2004. No additional local funds are required.

MHA:gpq